

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 16, 2009. Claim 1 is amended to correct some minor typos. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 5 and 7-9 are pending.

**§103 Rejections:**

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected as being anticipated by Nonaka (US Patent No. 7,162,151) in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and further in view of Tamamura (US Patent No. 7,463,284). This rejection is moot for the following reasons.

Claim 1 of the present application claims priority to JP Application No. 2005-154447 filed in the Japanese Patent Office on May 26, 2005. Enclosed is a verified translation of this priority application.

The earliest effective prior art date of Tamamura is November 15, 2005, which is subsequent to the priority date of the present application. Withdrawal of Tamamura as a prior art reference is requested.

Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 and 5. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

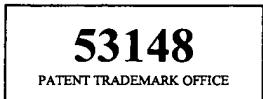
Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of AAPA in view of Tamamura and further in view of Nakazono (JP No. 2003-134385). This rejection is traversed. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 9 is rejected as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of AAPA in view of Tamamura and further in view of Yu (US Patent No. 6,611,289). This rejection is traversed. Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Conclusion:

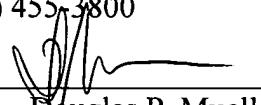
Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,



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